

PAAS uses four forms to record solid minerals data. Two forms are necessary to establish a reference data base. Form MMS-4050, Mine Information Form (MIF), is filed as the first step in reporting solid mineral data to PAAS. It is prepared by BLM or MMS when a mine is first approved, or to change previously reported data from each mine that includes Federal or Indian leases. Form MMS-4051-S, Facility and Measurement Information Form (FMIF) identifies the scales and meters that measure production at each mine or storage or secondary processing facility.

Two operations reports provide information on production, sales volumes, and inventories of mines and processing facilities. Form MMS-4059, Solid Minerals Operations Report (SMOR) is submitted by all Federal and Indian lease operators producing solid minerals subject to royalties and has two parts. Part A, Production and Disposition of Raw Materials, is submitted by operators of all producing mines that include Federal or Indian leases within the approved mine plan, and is required only if production is sold directly from the mine. Part B, Mine Sales From a Facility, is submitted only by those mine operators whose production is sold after secondary processing, or from remote storage.

Form MMS-4060, Solid Minerals Facility Report (SMFR), is submitted to MMS by operators of secondary processing or remote storage facilities that handle solid mineral production on which royalties have not been determined and also has two parts. Part A, Process Operations, identifies the operator and the facility, and for each line item, the mine, type of product received, and quantity and quality of input and output of the processing facility. Part B, Inventory, identifies for each product and its source mine the beginning inventory, raw materials received, amount of production, disposition, quantity sold or transferred, the facility or measuring point to which production is transferred, and ending inventory.

The MMS has analyzed PAAS requirements to ensure that the information requested is the minimum necessary and places the least possible burden on industry. There are no special reporting provisions for small organizations. To reduce the reporting burden, MMS provides toll-free telephone assistance, distributes information packages with copies of the PAAS Reporter Handbook providing step-by-step instructions in completing required forms, and conducts training at various sites around the country.

Dated: April 22, 1996.

Robert E. Brown,

Acting Associate Director for Royalty Management.

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Environmental Documents Prepared for Proposed Annual Lease Sales in the Central and Western Gulf of Mexico in the New 5-Year Program (1997-2002)

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.

ACTION: Proposal to prepare a single Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for all of the proposed annual lease sales in the Central Gulf of Mexico Planning Area (CPA) and another for the Western Gulf of Mexico Planning Area (WPA) in the new 5-Year Program (1997-2002), followed by an Environmental Assessment (EA) prior to each sale.

SUMMARY: Since least sale proposals in the CPA and WPA are very similar each year, it is proposed that a single EIS be prepared for all the sales (four or five) on the 5-year schedule in each planning area. Federal regulations allow for several proposals to be analyzed in one EIS (40 CFR 1502.4). The multisale EIS would include an analysis of a single, "typical" sale and a cumulative analysis that would include the effects of holding all four or five sales as well as the cumulative effects of the long-term development of the planning area. The multisale approach will apply only to the CPA and WPA. In subsequent years, an EA will be prepared to determine if a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) should be prepared, or whether a Supplemental EIS (SEIS) is warranted.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, Minerals Management Service, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394, George Hampton, Telephone (504) 736-2465.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In 1983 the planning areas in the Gulf of Mexico were defined as Eastern, Central, and Western, and the boundaries of those areas were established. Since that time a sale has been planned and held annually in both the Central and Western Planning Areas. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document prepared for each of those sales has been an EIS. When the EIS for Sales 166 and 168 is filed in December 1996, 15 final EIS's will have been produced on annual areawide sales in the CPA and WPA. A Draft EIS on the 5-year program was recently completed and is available for comment. Additionally, a Cumulative Effects

Report, which includes an assessment of the cumulative effects from OCS Program activities that occurred from 1987 through 1991 (MMS 95-0007) was completed. Since the proposed action for each sale is basically the same (offer all available unleased blocks in each planning area) and the level of expected activity does not vary a great deal from year-to-year, the level of potential impacts remain within consistent ranges. Therefore, the EIS's prepared on these sales are very similar.

The EIS will include an analysis of the environmental effects of holding one sale, a sale "typical" of any in the planning area, that may be held in the remainder of the 5-year program.

The assumptions upon which the analysis is based would cover a range of resources and activities that would encompass any of the four follow-up proposed actions. Later sales could then be compared to the initial analysis in an EA or SEIS.

The cumulative analysis, as identified in NEPA 1508.25(a)(2), would be in two parts. One part would be concentrated on the five proposed actions, emphasizing the cumulative aspect of holding the current sale proposal and four more annual sales. The second part would be a full cumulative analysis of all past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

The MMS is requesting comments and recommendations from interested parties concerning the proposed multisale EIS process.

The MMS will present the multisale approach to all interested parties at a public meeting in New Orleans. The meeting is scheduled for the following date, time, and location: May 22, 1996, MMS, Gulf of Mexico Regional Office, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, Room 115, New Orleans, Louisiana, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Dated: April 22, 1996.

Chris C. Oynes,

Regional Director, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region.

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Environmental Documents Prepared for Proposed Oil and Gas Operations on the Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of the availability of environmental documents prepared for the OCS mineral proposals on the Gulf of Mexico OCS.

SUMMARY: The Minerals Management Service (MMS), in accordance with